



SPECIAL
HEROES REBORN
UPDATE INSIDE!

X-FORCE



Polina
La Rosa

AN SLAUGHTER
IMPACT 2

DIRECT EDITION



\$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

MARVEL
COMICS

X-MEN SEPT '96
58

...BEFORE THE DAWN

"RUN, BOY
RUN!"

WHEN KING ARTHUR SHOUTED THOSE
WORDS TO THE BOY, TOM OF WARWICK, IT
WAS A CALL TO ARMS ACROSS THE LAND.

FOR THOUGH CAMELOT
HAD FALLEN, ARTHUR KNEW
THAT HIS DREAM... HIS
HOPE... WOULD LIVE ON
IN THE YOUNG.

THE DARING.

A LOEB • CASTRILLO • LaROSA
COMICRAFT • JAVINS • MALIBU
HARRAS PRODUCTION

HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER,
CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER
HAD A DIFFERENT DREAM.

ONE WHERE MUTANTS --
MEN AND WOMEN WITH
STRANGE AND OFTEN
FRIGHTENING POWERS --

-- COULD PEACEFULLY
CO-EXIST WITH A
GROWING HUMANITY
THAT WOULD OFTEN
FEAR AND HATE THEM.

TOWARD THAT END, HE
RECRUITED TWO TEAMS
OF THE UNIQUE CHILDREN
OF THE ATOM.

HE NAMED THE FIRST
THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

AND THE SECOND,
THE NEW MUTANTS.

TODAY, THE NEW MUTANTS
ARE CALLED...

**X
FORCE**

PRESENTED
BY
STAN LEE

AND THE
DREAM?

THE DREAM HAS BECOME
A NIGHTMARE NAMED

ONSLAUGHT



A TIME IN YOUNG ROBERTO D'ACOSTA'S LIFE WHEN ALL HE HAD TO WORRY ABOUT WAS AN OPENING DOWN FIELD.

FOR IN HIS NATIVE
BRAZIL, SOCCER
WAS THE SPORT
OF KINGS --

-- AND WITH HIS SKILL, ROBERTO WAS ONE OF RIO DE JANEIRO'S PRINCES.

«DID YOU
SEE, JULIANA?
BLESSED
SAINTS, WHAT A
MOVE!»

(MY SON IS AN ARTIST WITH THE FOOTBALL.)

**JULIANA SANDOVAL
DOES NOT ARGUE
WITH ROBERTO'S
FATHER, EMMANUEL.**

IT IS A WONDERFUL THING
TO BE YOUNG AND IN LOVE,
AND HAVE THE ONE YOU
LOVE BE LIKE A SHINING
STAR THAT FELL TO EARTH.

TRANSLATED FROM THE
PORTUGUESE - Bilingual
Book

YOU
ARE FAST,
PEDRO, BUT
NOT FAST
ENOUGH.

SHOT.
SCORE.
GOAL! GOAL!
GOAL!

THE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH BETWEEN THE THUNDERBOLT OF THE VILAR SCHOOL AND THEIR ARCHRIVALS, THE DYNAMOS.

AT ANOTHER TIME, THIS GAME WOULD GO UNFINISHED. STOPPED BY THE STARTLING REVELATION THAT ROBERTO IS NOT AN ORDINARY BOY.

BUT, RATHER, THE
SOLAR FURNACE
CALLED SUNSPOT!

SEE MARVEL GRAPHIC
NOVEL #4: THE NEW
MILITANTS, A LONG TIME
AGO - Bob

IN WHATEVER THIS PLACE IS, HOWEVER, ROBERTO WINS THE GAME.

THE CRO
LOVES H
FOR IT.

AND ROBERTO
D' COSTA
IS HAPPY.



NIGHTTIME.

THE XAVIER
INSTITUTE,
SALEM CENTER,
WESTCHESTER,
NEW YORK.

ONCE, THESE
WALLS STOOD
FOR SOMETHING.
AN IDEAL THAT
WAS TAUGHT BY
A GOOD MAN
AND LEARNED BY
EAGER STUDENTS.

NOW, IT LAYS
WASTED, CHARR'D
BY THE BRUTAL WAR
THAT THE PSIONIC
MANIFESTATION
ONSLAUGHT
COMMANDS —

— AND A SURPRISE
ATTACK FROM THE
GENETIC MANIPULATOR
KNOWN AS SINISTER.

X-FORCE PITCHED
THEIR LAST BATTLE
HERE.

AND
LOST.

SUDDENLY.

BLESSED
SAINTS!
AIR!

I
THOUGHT
WE'D BE
DEAD, FOR
SURE.

THERESA ROURKE
FIRST TOOK TO THE
SKIES AS A YOUNG
LASS GROWING UP
IN IRELAND.

SINCE THEN, LIKE HER
FATHER, GENERATION
X'S LEADER BANGSHÉ,
THE FIERY REDHEAD —
CODENAMED SIRYN —
CAN USE HER VOICE
WITH DEVASTATING
EFFECTIVENESS.

I
REMEMBER
NOW...

... WE WERE
PROTECTING
NATE GREY FROM
THE GUILDS OF
ONSLAUGHT —

— ONLY TO
BE BLINDSIDED
BY THAT
BLACKGUARD
SINISTER.

HE
SOMEHOW
TURNED
NATE'S POWER
AGAINST
US —

— OH,
LORD! —

LAST ISSUE - Bob.

— NAE!
THE
OTHERS!



IF NOT FOR SIRYN'S SONIC SCREAM, THE SILENCE WOULD BE DEAFENING.

AND HER THOUGHTS TURN IRREVOCABLY TO PRAYERS SHE LEARNED AS A CHILD.



STAY CALM, TERRY. THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

WE'VE BEEN IN WORSE SCRAPES THAN THIS.



COME ON, BOBBY, GIVE ME A SIGN.



NO PULSE. NO HEARTBEAT.

BUT NONE OF US KNOWS HOW HIS POWERS WORK --

-- MAYBE MAYBE I CANNAE HEAR HIS HEART.



I DINNAE UNDERSTAND.

WE ALL SUFFERED THE SAME ATTACK --

-- HOW IS IT I ALONE...

...SURVIVED...?



NAE.
WE
BEEN TRAINED
NAE TO GIVE
UP.
BUT,
WE NEED HELP
AND ALL THE
COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT ARE
SHOT.



CABLE,
I DINNAE
KNOW IF'N WE'RE
STILL PSI-
LINKED --

-- OR
EVEN IF'N
YE CAN HEAR MY
THOUGHTS --

-- BUT,
WE NEED YE,
CABLE,
LIKE NEVER
BEFORE.

USING EVERY OUNCE
OF HER WILL POWER,
SIRYN REACHES OUT
WITH HER THOUGHTS...



TERRY...P

CABLEP
THANK THE
HEAVENS, BUT
I CANNAE
HARDLY HEAR
YE!

IT'S
ONSLAUGHT,
TERRY. PSIONIC
INTERFERENCE...
STATIC...

WHATP
CABLE, I'M
LOSIN'
YE --

THE TELEPATHIC IMAGE
IS THAT OF X-FORCE'S
VALIANT LEADER, NATHAN
DAYSpring SUMMERS --

-- THE MAN
CALLED CABLE.

HE IS CURRENTLY IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE FIGHT OF
HIS LIFE IN THE CENTER
OF NEW YORK.

NO CHANCE OF THAT!
CHECK OUT CABLE
NOW!



-- BE
THERE AS
SOON AS
I --

-- BE
STRONG --

-- ALWAYS
DARKEST
BEFORE...



AAAAH!

PSIONIC
FEEDBACK..!

CABLE...P

GONE.



GUESS
IT'S UP TO
ME
THEN.

IF'N
I CAN SAVE
JUST ONE OF
YE --

-- MAYBE
I CAN FIND
WHAT AILS THE
OTHERS.

STARTING
WITH YE,
TABITHA.

ELSEWHERE...

THE YOUNG WOMAN CALLED MELTDOWN HAS AN AUTHORITY IN HER TONE SHE ONLY RECENTLY ACQUIRED.

GET UP.

ONCE, TABITHA SMITH WAS A CONFUSED, SHAKEN GIRL WHO COULD BE EASILY TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF... ABUSED EVEN.

OFTEN HER TORMENTORS WERE MEN.

THE LAST OF THEM WENT TOO FAR.

C'MON, VIC, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE IT COMIN' TO YOU.

WHEN NO ONE ELSE THOUGHT THE MURDEROUS SABRETOOTH DESERVED ANOTHER CHANCE, TABITHA WENT OUT ON A LIMB FOR HIM.

AND HE BETRAYED THAT TRUST BRUTALLY.

VICIOUSLY.

pitsss

SEE X-FORCE #49-50
UNCANNY X-MEN #328
AND THE SABRETOOTH SPECIAL - Ultimate Book

WIMP.

LET'S GO AGAIN.

SHE KNOWS SHE JUST KILLED HIM. IT WOULD SEEM IMPLAUSIBLE THAT HE WOULD DO ANYTHING EVER AGAIN.



HOWEVER...

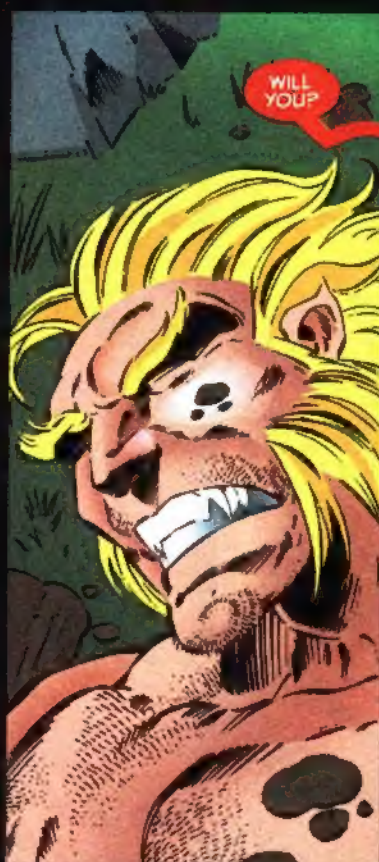
GONNA
GUT YOU
THIS TIME,
GIRLIE.



FAT
CHANCE.



LOSER.
LET'S
GO AGAIN.



ALONG TIME AGO,
IN A GALAXY
FAR, FAR AWAY

A ROCKET SHIP SPIRALS
TOWARD EARTH

A STORY WHICH HAS BEEN
TOLD A THOUSAND,
THOUSAND TIMES
UNFOLDS AGAIN

ITS SOLE PASSENGER
THE LAST, BEST HOPE
FOR A NEW GENERATION

TRAGICALLY, THE
SHIP **CRASHES**
IN A NEBRASKAN
CORNFIELD

AMAZINGLY, NO
ONE IS HURT.

STOP
THE CAR,
NATHAN!
STOP THE
CAR!

BOOM

STAB
MY EYES,
BEATRICE! HE'S
ALIVE!

CALIBAN
LIKES THIS
PART THE
BEST.

SOON...

CALIBAN
FIXED THE
TRACTOR, PA-
NATHAN. JUST
LIKE PA-NATHAN
ASKED.

YOU'VE
DONE GOOD,
LAD.

EVER
SINCE YOU'VE
COME TO STAY
WITH US, CAL,
THINGS JUST
HAVE A HABIT OF
FALLING INTO
PLACE.

CALIBAN
LIKES IT
HERE.

CALIBAN
GUESSES THIS
IS ALL HE EVER
WANTED.

IN ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER
PLACE, THE MUTANT TRACKER
WITH A CHILDLIKE SENSIBILITY
CALLED CALIBAN WAS AMONG
THE LAST OF A SLAUGHTERED
GROUP OF MUTANTS KNOWN
AS MORLOCKS.

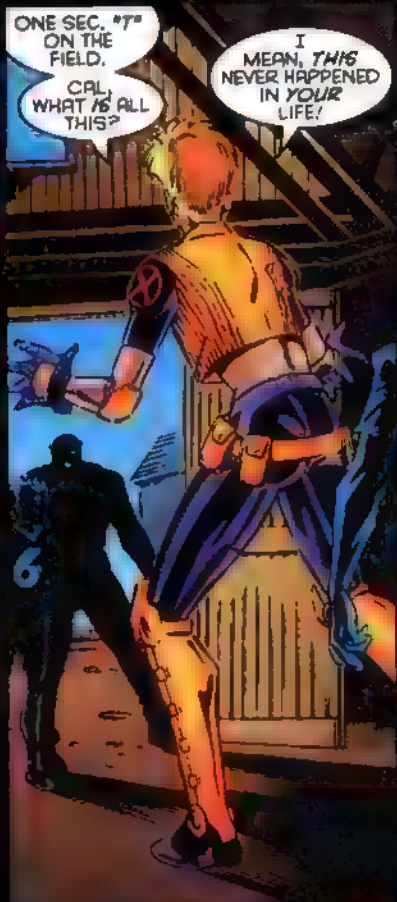
THEY LIVED IN THE
SEWERS BENEATH
NEW YORK AND HID
IN THE SHADOWS.

UH-OH.

CALIBAN
SENSES...

... MUTANTS!

CALIBAN
WILL BE RIGHT
BACK.





IN A TIME THAT
NEVER WAS... A
HOMELAND THAT IS
NEAR FORGOTTEN...

AN APACHE
RESERVATION.

THE HOME OF
JOHN AND JIMMY
PROUDSTAR.

JOHN PROUDSTAR,
THE FORMER X-MAN,
THUNDERBIRD,
WHO DIED ON ONE OF
THEIR FIRST MISSIONS --

-- NEVER ABLE TO SEE
THE INSPIRATION HE
WOULD BRING TO HIS
YOUNGER BROTHER --

-- THE STRENGTH
AND SPEED OF
X-FORCE KNOWN
AS

WARPATH.

WARPATH BACK AT JIMMY

Doc.



I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SAY THIS,
JIMMY.

BUT,
YOU'VE DONE
WELL, LITTLE
BROTHER.

I'M
DOING ALL
RIGHT, JOHN. I'VE
FINALLY TURNED
MY LIFE AROUND.



FORGET YOUR LIFE,
LET'S TURN THIS HERD
AROUND BEFORE
SOMEONE GETS
HURT!

HA!
TOGETHER
THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING
WE CAN'T
DO!

AS THE MIGHTY BEAST
FALLS, WARPATH TINGLES
WITH EXCITEMENT.

IN SOME WAY, HE KNOWS
THE BROTHERS ARE
WORKING SIDE-BY-SIDE
IN A WAY THEY NEVER
GOT TO --

-- AND NOW,
MAY NEVER
AGAIN...



LATER...

JOHN..?

WILL
IT ALWAYS
BE LIKE
THIS?

BUT, BEFORE, THE
OLDER PROUDSTAR
CAN ANSWER...



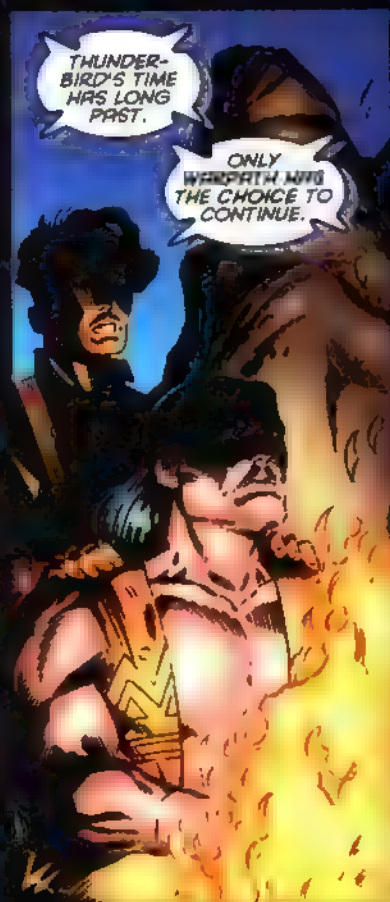
IT
IS YOUR
COURAGE
THAT BRINGS
THIS TEAM
TOGETHER

YOU'VE
LEARNED
TO PUT ASIDE
OUR PERSONA
DOUBTS AND
FACE THE
CHALLENGE
TOGETHER



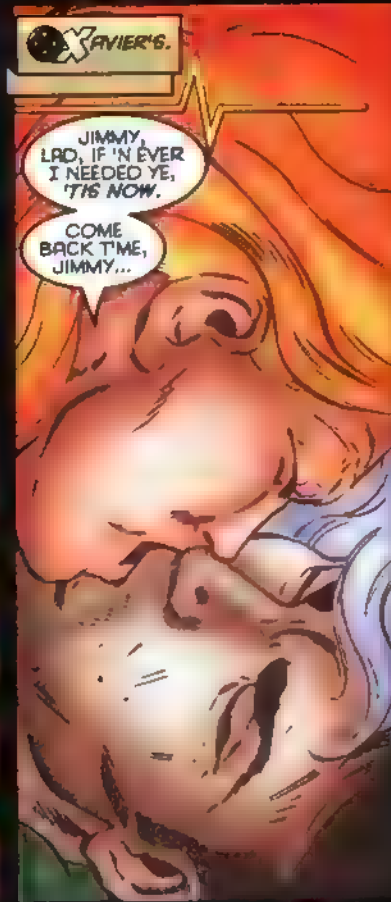
BOBBY...

... CAN... MY
BROTHER COME
TOOP



THUNDER-
BIRD'S TIME
HAS LONG
PAST.

ONLY
WARPATH HAS
THE CHOICE TO
CONTINUE.



XAVIER'S.

JIMMY,
LAD, IF I'VE EVER
NEEDED YE,
TIS NOW.

COME
BACK TIME,
JIMMY...



THEN.

IN A PLACE THAT IS NEITHER FAR NOR NEAR.

CALIBAN SENSES HE IS NEAR.

RIGHT ON TOP OF THIS...

ALL
THE
STARS
ARE
HERE



HELP?

NOT A THING.

I HAVE MERELY TAKEN THE TIME OUT TO SMELL THE VEGETATION.

'STAR?'

ALL
THE
STARS
ARE
HERE

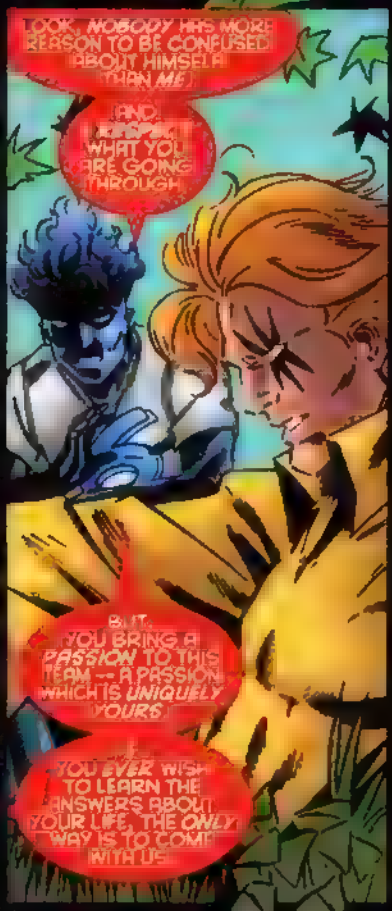
"ROSES"
IT'S "SMELL THE
ROSES."

YES!

THEY STARE WITH AWE,
INTENDING TO FIND
SHATTERSTAR UPON
BATTLEFIELD.

LIKE THE GREAT NORSE GODS,
WHO LOOK FORWARD TO A PROMISED
LAND CALLED VALHALLA, HE WOULD
BE OUT WITH HIS BLADE DRAWN —
FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT.

WHAT ELSE WOULD
ONE EXPECT FROM
A WARRIOR BORN?



I DO NOT THINK SO.

BACK THERE, THERE ARE TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

BEGINNING WITH, "WHO AM I, REALLY?"

HERE, IT DOES NOT MATTER.

I AM ME.

WHAT?!

'STAR, YOU GOTTA COME WITH US.

IT'S ALL OR NOTHING.

LOOK, NOBODY HAS MORE REASON TO BE CONFUSED ABOUT HIMSELF THAN ME.

AND, I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.

BUT, YOU BRING A PASSION TO THIS TEAM -- A PASSION WHICH IS UNIQUELY YOURS.

IF YOU EVER WISH TO LEARN THE ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR LIFE, THE ONLY WAY IS TO COME WITH US.

YOUR TIME GROWS SHORTER.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE... GO NOW.

FOR SOON, YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHOICE...

NEXT.

HER NAME IS

DOMINO.

SHE HAS BEEN
MANY THINGS IN
THIS LIFE.
MERCENARY,
BANDIT,
CO-LEADER OF
THIS BAND OF
MISFITS.

WHO'S
OUT
THERE?

AND
MUCH
MORE
THAN THAT
THEY DO NOT
EVEN KNOW ABOUT
HER. STARTING
WITH HER REAL
NAME.



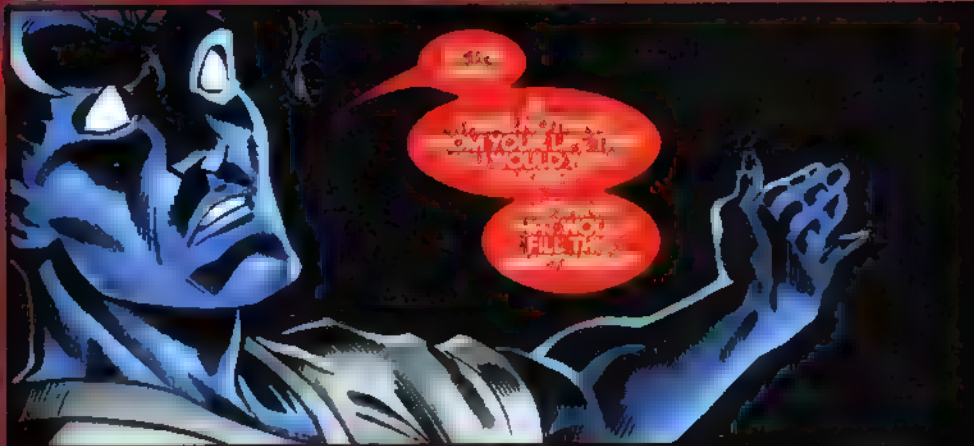
GO
AWAY.

I NEVER
WANTED ANY
PART OF
THIS.

THIS
WAS CABLE'S
DEAL, NOT
MINE.

I'LL
BE JUST FINE
HERE.

SO
WILL ALL
OF YOU.



SHE

WAS NOT THE
ONLY ONE
WHO

WAS NOT
THE ONLY ONE
WHO

MAYBE.

... THEN
FACE THE
LIGHT OF MY
PAST...

MAYBE
IT'S EASIER TO
BE ALONE IN
THE DARK...

UNLIKE
CABLE, WHO IS OUR
STRENGTH, OUR
ANCHOR...

DOMINO,
YOU BRING US
THE BELIEF IN
OURSELVES...

... BUT WE CAN
NOT BE OUR
BEST.

I...

ROBERTO,
YOU HAVE THEM
ALL NOW.

ALL YOU
NEED IS TO
BRING THEM
INTO THE
LIGHT...

STILL... YOU
JUST KNOW THE
VALUE OF YOUR
LEADERSHIP...

... THE
PROMISE
THAT WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH
ANYTHING...

... AND
ALL YOUR
DREAMS WILL BE
FULFILLED.

HURRY
NOW!

FOR IF
HE FINDS
YOU HERE, YOU
WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO COMPLETE
YOUR JOURNEY.

WHO,
LITTLE ONE?
WHO IS IT
YOU FEAR
SO?

IT
MATTERS
NOT. GO!
INTO THE
LIGHT.





...THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR YOU HERE.

SO CERTAIN THAT THE NIGHT'S MANIPULATIONS ARE COMPLETE, THE GUIDE REVEALS HIMSELF TOO SOON.

FOR SUCH IS THE ARROGANCE OF THE ONE BEING WHO WOULD DESTROY THE FUTURE.

THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

THE NIGHTMARE THAT IS

ONSLAUGHT

...AND DO NOT LOOK BACK.



FRIENDS. WAIT. CALIBAN THINKS LOOKING BACK IS A GOOD THING.

CAL, HE SAID TO HURRY...?



WE'VE BEEN... USED?

-- WE FORGOT THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FIND A BRIGHTER TOMORROW --

-- IS BY KICKIN' BUTT TODAY.

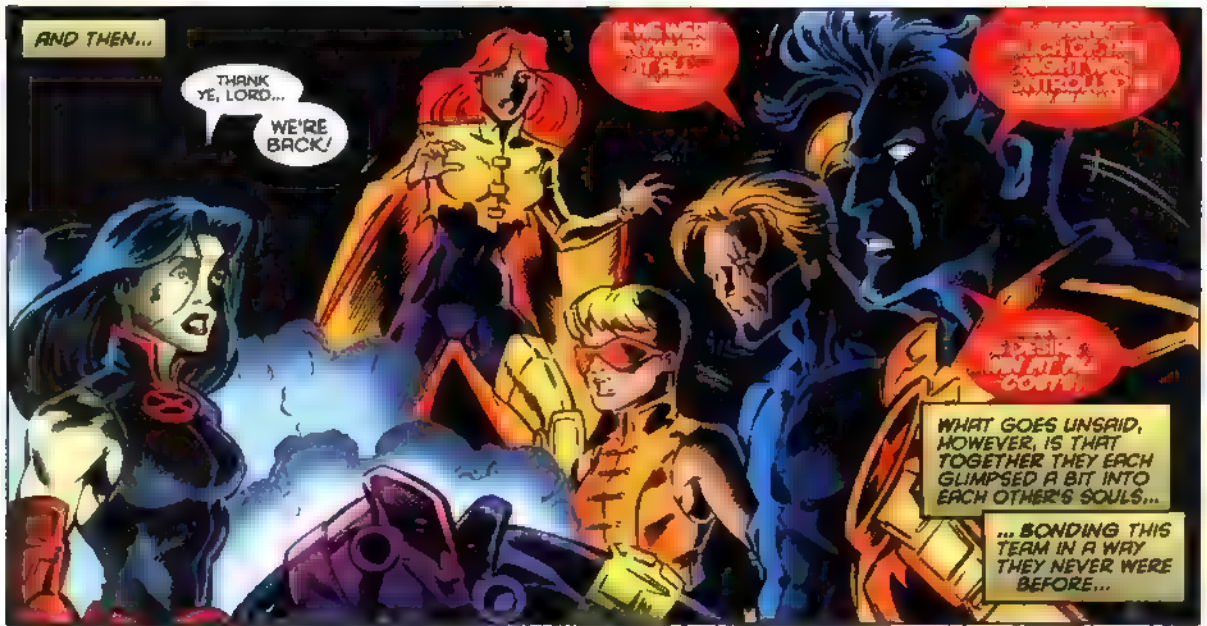
STARTING WITH YOU ONSLAUGHT.

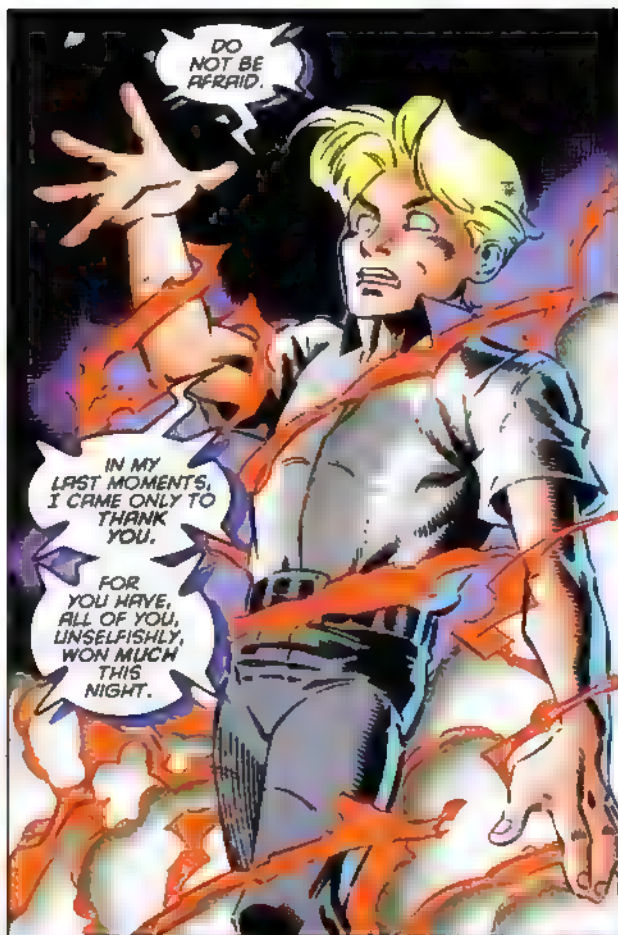


AT THE MANSION, SIRYN KEEPS A SOLE VIGIL

OUR FATHER, WHO REST IN HEAVEN...

HALLOWED BE THY NAME





DO NOT BE AFRAID.

IN MY LAST MOMENTS, I CAME ONLY TO THANK YOU.

FOR YOU HAVE, ALL OF YOU, UNSELFISHLY, WON MUCH THIS NIGHT.



SIRYN, I COULD PROTECT ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE TEAM, SO I CHOSE YOU.

YOU ALONE ARE THE TEAM'S INSPIRATION —

YOU ALONE HAVE AN UNSHAKEABLE BELIEF THAT WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS RIGHT.

I CHOSE WELL.



A MEMORY. A FADING MEMORY, AT BEST.

I AM WHAT ONSLAUGHT COULD NEVER FULLY CONTROL OR DESTROY.

THE GOODNESS OF A YOUNG CHARLES XAVIER.



BUT... WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU NOW?

THANKS TO YOUR VICTORY OVER THE DARK... I AM... AT LAST... FREE...



AND WHILE ONSLAUGHT REMAINS SEPARATE...

... REMEMBER THAT YOU ALL REPRESENT THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS...

THE YOUNG.

THE DARING.



A LIGHT
ONSLAUGHT
COULD NEVER
EXTINGUISH...

AND AS THE CHILD'S
IMAGE FADES WITH
THE COMING DAWN...

... X-FORCE REMAINS
WHOLE, STANDING
AS ONE.

ALTHOUGH THEY
ARE LEFT IN THE
ASHEN RUIN OF
XAVIER'S FORMER
HOME...

... AND WHILE THEY KNOW WITH
THE LIKES OF ONSLAUGHT AND
SINISTER STILL OUT THERE,
THEY MAY HAVE LOST A
BATTLE...

BUT THE WAR
STILL GOES ON.

YET, TONIGHT, SOMEHOW,
THEY FEEL CERTAIN THEY WON
MORE THAN ALL THEIR BATTLES
PUT TOGETHER...

... THAT THIS WAS
THEIR GREATEST
VICTORY!

"RUN, BOY
RUN!"

CABLE RETURNS! THE TEAM REUNITED! THE BEGINNING OF THE SHATTERSTAR SAGA

FEATURING: THE RETURN OF...
NAAAH-- THAT WOULD BE TELLING..!

X-CLAMATIONS

Dear X-Clamations,

I have been enjoying the new energy and complexity of the stories since *The Age of Apocalypse*. I do not like to make broad assumptions when it comes to future plots or the behavior of the characters. I prefer to deal with each event as it unfolds, just as in life. The letters page from issue #54, however, made me have to stop and write.

First and most importantly, I do not assume just because Tabitha has changed her hair, her name, and her attitude, that all is well and she is on the road to inner peace. Sometimes, people can put on an act not only to fool others but also to fool themselves. Only time will tell if the transformation will stick and if it will bode well for Tabitha. Personally, I think Sam has outgrown Tabitha, also. Sam has always been forward moving and in touch with who he is and what he wants, and how to get it.

Speaking of forward-minded, I cannot wait for Dani's return. She might join up with X-Force, but they live in the same house as the X-Men. I think it is about time Dani and Sam hooked up.

Now, for my opinion on Deadpool. I hope X-Force does rescue him and he and Terry come to some sort of understanding, but if you try to make him part of X-Force, Domino will have to kill someone. Not to mention Cable going berserk. Though I think a little romance between Wade and Terry would be cool. That means Banshee would definitely have a stroke.

Keep up the good work.

Catherine D. Kobasiuk
Mastic Beach, NY

Whoa! That's a pretty tough analysis about Tabitha, Catherine! You're quite right in your assessment that she *might* be putting on an act, but oftentimes a person's external appearance can radically change if they are undergoing a major internal change, or in Tabitha's case, a catharsis. While Meltdown still has a ways to go in dealing with her personal demons, we think she's on the right track so far.

Deadpool and Terry hooking up? Ha! Banshee would probably combust spontaneously before he got a chance to have a stroke! Unfortunately, a Wade/Terry romance is not in the making. You see, the Merc with a Mouth is going to be quite busy this fall, when his new ongoing series debuts!!! See? Ya lose some and ya win some.

Dear X-Clamations,

I must start off by saying I love what

you've done to this title. It has become my favorite X-book by far. I must congratulate Jeph, he is doing a fantastic job with X-FORCE. He has added depth that the book needs and deserves. I love the way the current members are developing, especially Warpath. At first look, I was shocked by Adam's artwork, but now he is my favorite X-artist; his dynamic penciling adds an entirely new dimension that was lacking for quite some time.

I do, however, have one qualm. I am a huge Deadpool fan, and I loved each of his two fantastic limited series. He has too much potential and too much room for character development to collect dust in the Weisman Institute. Please have Siryn and Star bust him out. It would give Siryn a chance to show off her skills as a leader, and it would give us some insight into Star's past. Not to mention the possibility of a Deadpool and Star team-up, which would be just incredible. There would be no better way to see the Grandmaster fall than at the hands of Deadpool, Star, and Siryn.

I'm asking you to please get Wade out of the Weisman Institute. Please don't let such a great character drift away from the title again. He is a great character and never gets the respect he deserves. How about another Deadpool limited series? Please keep him involved with Siryn, since they make quite a pair and it shows us a side of Wade that we don't always see. Please don't let a fantastic character go to waste.

Keep up the good work!

Dan Thompson
Mahwah, NJ

If you're a big fan of Adam's artwork, Dan, then you *must* check out this summer's *RISE OF APOCALYPSE* limited series. From what we've seen so far, it may just be Adam's best work to date (and the story's a killer, too!).

As you know from reading issue #36, Deadpool has indeed been liberated from the Weisman Institute. After all, that's a place for crazy people, right?

Creative Geniuses behind X-FORCE,

This letter is mainly concerning the current sub-plot involving Shatterstar, and the new discoveries that have surfaced recently about him.

Shatterstar is Longshot and Dazzler's son. There has been evidence of this for quite some time, but now hopefully the full story will be told after what the Beast inadvertently found out. It has been revealed that Shatterstar is from the same universe as the former X-Man, Longshot, although from the future.

It was practically revealed in X-MEN

#10 and 11, and the letters page of X-FORCE #17 hints at the fact that this is true, answering the query regarding the fact that if both Shatterstar and Longshot are from the same universe, of the same race, then why does Longshot have three fingers and Shatterstar five? Why? Because he had a human mother (Dazzler) and he has become a hybrid of some sort, inheriting the hollow bones and other attributes from his father, Longshot, and his human appearance from his mother.

Does this have something to do with the reason Jean didn't feel the presence of a baby inside of Aaron when they met recently in X-MEN #47?

As far as the whole exact DNA thing, I don't have a clue. (Perhaps it has something to do with the genetics of their race?)

I guess I'll just have to wait patiently to find out how all of this fits into the discovery Siryn almost made while in the mental institute. (Benjamin Russell?!) I rather prefer Shatterstar!

Hopefully, this storyline will eventually involve Longshot and his wife making an appearance themselves, as they are great characters and it would be nice to see them again.

Simon Best
Montgomery, Victoria, Australia

Longshot, you say? Check out next issue - you'll be all kinds of happy!

Hi guys,

I wanted to say great job. Plus, I would like to correct you guys. You keep saying Apocalypse died in the classic *X-Cubed* Song, but we saw him briefly in X-MEN #41, *Legion Quest*, part four.

Kenneth Czarnecki
Junction City, KS

Cool letter, Kenneth! You're both right and wrong. You see, Apocalypse's appearance in *Legion Quest* took place in the past, during the time before Xavier formed the X-Men (which totally precedes *X-Cubed*'s Song). At the same time, we were wrong in assuming that Apocalypse died, because as we saw in *UNCANNY X-MEN* #336, he's been back!

next month:

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF SHATTERSTAR! PLUS, LONGSHOT!

Design by CONCEPT



C/O MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NY, NY 10016

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL NAME AND
ADDRESS PRINTED, BE SURE TO TELL US!

BEN
ASSISTANT
RAAB

BOB
CHIEF
HARRAS

BULLPEN BULLETINS

**X-MEN vs.
THE ALIEN
BROOD-
THIS TIME
IT'S WAR!**



It's the ultimate interstellar conflict as Marvel's mightiest mutants, the ever-uncanny X-Men, once again face the terrifying alien race known as the Brood!

The action begins next week, when the first issue of X-MEN/BROOD: DAY OF WRATH, an epic two-part limited series, hits the stands! Written by John Ostrander, with absolutely breathtaking artwork by Bryan Hitch and Paul Neary, this is a sequel to the classic Brood storyline from UNCANNY X-MEN #232-234, in which Hannah Conover, the wife of an evangelist reverend, was infected with a Brood Queen egg. According to

Jaye Gardner, editor of the new story, "Jean Grey serves as the driving force behind the X-Men's involvement. It's really her story. The Brood Empress is sending out psychic commands to Hannah from the homeworld, and Jean is intercepting these transmissions as nightmares!" Jaye adds that readers will get to see Jean, the Beast, and Bishop facing the Brood for the very first time, along with a group of Brood genetically engineered to be assassins!

Sounds like there's going to be plenty of stuff going on in this series, and that the X-Men are going to have their hands full... so what else is new?!

That's right, gang! The one, true, original Howard the Duck is poised to make a major comeback in the Marvel Universe!

WALLUGH!

Stated to appear in one issue each of **GENERATION X**, **GHOST RIDER**, **SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP** and his very own holiday special, it seems like ol' Howard is about to take the country by storm once again -- and just in time for the presidential election, too! Maybe he'll run for president again, like he did back in 1976! Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Howard the Duck... who would you choose?!

Look for the dauntless duck to show his lovable face in **GENERATION X** #20 (on sale next month), **SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP** #5, written by Howard creator Steve Gerber and on sale in September, and **GHOST RIDER** #82 and the **HOWARD THE DUCK HOLIDAY SPECIAL**, both due out at Christmas!



STEVE SKROCE SETS HIS SIGHTS ON SPIDER-MAN!

As you've probably heard, current **X-MAN** penciler Steve Skroce is set to take over the penciling chores on **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** with issue #418, set to ship in October. And even though that's still a few months off, Steve reports that he's already itching to start work on the web-slinger's adventures!

Steve began his career as a professional comics artist four years ago, when he was hired to pencil **ECTOKID**. After that, a fill-in job for **CABLE** turned into a regular assignment on the book. When the now-classic Age of Apocalypse storyline hit the X-books, which in turn led into the regular **X-MAN** series, Steve was offered the book and gladly accepted. Little did he know that there would be webs (lotsa lotsa webs!) in his future! "I've always loved Spider-Man," Steve reports. "He's my absolute favorite character, and this is a dream project for me!"

Well, Steve's dream comes true with **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #418, part of the no-holds-barred, earth-shattering, era-ending storyline running through all the Spider-books this fall!

CHECKLIST FOR JULY 31

SILVER SURFER #160 The newly restored Silver Surfer squares off against the all-powerful Uni-Lord! Will the Surfer's return to action be a short-lived one? By George Pérez and Scot Eaton!

THOR: THE LEGEND A special 48-page one-shot honoring the life and career of the mighty thunder god! Get the whole scoop on Odin's #1 son, including alternate costumes, secret identities, a gallery of the gods and more!

NEW WARRIORS #71 Double-sized final issue! Nova is reborn! Night Thrasher, Namorita and Rage are back! Now the New Warriors stand reunited against the power of Voix, the Dire Wrath Queen! By Evan Skolnick and Patrick Zircher!

SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP #4 Spider-Man goes on a mad rampage! New York City is held in a web of terror and death! The only hope of salvation lies with Earth's Mightiest Heroes... the Avengers! By George Pérez, Derrick Robertson, Dan Jurgens, Steve Geiger and Brandon McKinney!

VENOM: THE HUNGER #2 (of 4) The institutionalized Eddie Brock comes under the tender ministrations of Doctor Paine! Meanwhile, Eddie's now-deranged symbiote searches for a new host -- one that can satiate its cravings for brains! By Len Kaminski and Ted Hatziste!

THE JUBILEE ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS & PHOENIX #1 (of 4) The landmark limited series ends with the birth of Sinister! Scott Summers and Jean Grey only have a few hours left to complete their mission before the world succumbs to the ascension of Apocalypse! By Peter Milligan and John Paul Leon!

X-MEN/BROOD: DAY OF WRATH #1 (of 4) Beginning the X-Men's ultimate alien encounter! The merry mutants are caught between a pack of Brood assassins and their target the Brood Queen! By John Ostrander and Bryan Hitch!

[WISH LIST]